

*House Select*

26 September 1975

NOTE FOR: All NIOs

1. Attached is a draft of a statement the DCI might make before the House Select Committee. It was written by Dick Lehman and it is, in my opinion, a first-class piece of work. The importance of the issues at stake, however, makes it mandatory that whatever the DCI eventually does say reflect the best thoughts and ideas obtainable from all of his colleagues.

2. To this end, I would appreciate it if each of you could go over this draft and send to  by 1500 on Monday, 29 September, any suggestions you have for changes or improvement. Particularly welcome would be your recommendations with respect to:

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a) Topics which should have been covered but were inadvertently omitted;

b) More felicitous phrasing, particularly of some of the complex ideas the DCI must find a way to get across in relatively simple language which will be understood by those who watch him on TV and by the journalists who write the stories about his presentation;

c) Examples of the various points being made which might be better, more apt or more dramatically effective than those adduced in Dick's draft.

3. I will send your suggestions, plus a few of my own, back to Dick, who will be getting similar advice from various quarters. He will then work up a new text. For reasons all of us will well understand, I share his view that it is

essential that the final text come out of one typewriter and not be prepared by a committee. Also, while he wants and will welcome suggestions with respect to topics now omitted which should be included, it is impossible to say everything about everything in one statement. He can take account of major significant omissions but the end product should not be appreciably longer than the present draft, for in this type of venture -- as in many others -- less is truly more.



George A. Carver, Jr. *(initials)*  
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

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Attachment

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25 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT : Response to HSC

1. As many of you know, I have been asked to draft a statement the DCI might make in response to charges made before and by the HSC in regard to intelligence performance. A first draft is attached.

2. The statement tries to do several things. First, to respond to the HSC in a firm but measured way, trying indirectly to suggest that the Committee is dealing with sophisticated questions it does not fully understand. Second, to reach beyond the HSC to the public with a story that has never been properly told. Third, to say to our own people that we are not rolling over with our paws in the air anytime some charge is made against us.


3. The statement is strong, perhaps a bit demagogic, but this is no time to be squeamish. We have a record we are proud of, and we should say so. It is, however, essential that every assertion be supportable, and I beseech your help. Some of the text is drawn from material your offices have prepared, but some from my memory; you should have more faith in the former than the latter.

4. Security and sensitivity must also be checked, but with as much flexibility as possible. To do its job, the statement must be unclassified. It bends the rules considerably and some deletions may be essential. If so, please suggest alternative language or topic. And let us not worry right now about putting a few noses out of joint.

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5. This is a first draft. It obviously still needs a lot of work. I did not use all the material provided, and there are undoubtedly additional subjects to be touched on and points to be made. (The text should not end up much longer, however.) Please give me any comments or criticisms, as well as a sign-off on accuracy and security, by COB Monday. The next step will be a draft for the Deputies, etc.

  
RICHARD LEHMAN  
Director  
Strategic Research

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